

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

STATINTL

DATE: 5 May 1949

TO : [REDACTED]

FROM : L. R. Houston

SUBJECT: Jury Duty for Women

STATINTL

1. [REDACTED] (extension 2485) stated that one of the female employees of ORE was called for jury duty at the Municipal Court Criminal Division before Judge Neilson, and did not want to serve. She said that they read a list of people exempted from jury duty (apparently 11 D.C. Code 1420), but said nothing about women being excused. She spoke to the attendant who said she might speak to the Judge and see what happened. Apparently she was eventually excused, but she was somewhat perturbed and noted that other women present were armed with affidavits to support their request to be excused.

2. A couple of weeks ago, another female employee of ORE had been excused without hesitation at her request. This seems to be in accord with 11 D.C. Code 1418, which provides "that such service shall not be compulsory on any woman." In the annotations under that Section, it appears that a woman juror will be excused at her own request even after the jury had been accepted but not sworn.

3. It therefore appears that the practice in the Criminal Division of not informing women of their right to be excused is unusual. Would you check with the clerks of the various courts and see if there is any possible limitation on the right of a woman to be excused from jury duty at her own request, and inform [REDACTED] on the situation.

STATINTL

ILLEGIB

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Dred Bk
Civil - 2854 x 56
Criminal - 2854 x 58

Municipal Ct

4th between 4th & 5th Civil - Re 4575 Chief Deputy Clerk
5th " " " Criminal - Re 4575 Chief Deputy Clerk

Juvenile Court Re 5432 4th & 5th
Clerk - Miss Reagle